

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently amended) ~~The electric power steering apparatus according to Claim 2,~~ An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

a steering assist motor for assisting operation of a steering mechanism by turning a steering member; and

a supporting mechanism for supporting said motor on a stationary member comprising a projection provided at one of the motor and the stationary member and a recess provided at the other of the motor and the stationary member, the projection being inserted into the recess;

wherein the supporting mechanism has a releasing mechanism for releasing support of the motor on the stationary member by impact energy applied to the motor comprising a movement permitting portion for permitting relative movement of the projection in the recess and a slip-off portion from where the projection slips off the movement permitting portion and

~~wherein the releasing mechanism has an elastic member for pushing the projection provided at one of the motor and the stationary member outward at a position of the slip-off portion.~~

4.-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) ~~The electric power steering apparatus according to Claim 3,~~ An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

a steering assist motor for assisting operation of a steering mechanism by turning a steering member; and

a supporting mechanism for supporting said motor on a stationary member comprising a projection provided at one of the motor and the stationary member and a recess provided at the other of the motor and the stationary member, the projection being inserted into the recess;

wherein the supporting mechanism has a releasing mechanism for releasing support of the motor on the stationary member by impact energy applied to the motor comprising a movement permitting portion for permitting relative movement of the projection in the recess and a slip-off portion from where the projection slips off the movement permitting portion, an elastic member for pushing the projection being provided at one of the motor and the stationary member outward at a position of the slip-off portion; and

wherein the motor has a rotor arranged so that a rotational center thereof intersects an axis of a steering shaft joined to the steering member and a cylindrical motor housing for supporting said rotor, and a peripheral face of said motor housing is provided with

an impact energy receiver for applying rotational force to the motor housing by the impact energy.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

a steering assist motor for assisting operation of a steering mechanism by turning a steering member; and

a supporting mechanism for supporting said motor on a stationary member comprising a projection configured as a screw member provided at one of the motor and the stationary member and a recess configured as a through bore provided at the other of the motor and the stationary member, the projection being inserted into the recess;

wherein the supporting mechanism has a releasing mechanism for releasing support of the motor on the stationary member by impact energy applied to the motor comprising a movement permitting portion for permitting relative movement of the projection in the recess and a slip-off portion from where the projection slips off the movement permitting portion, and

~~The electric power steering apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the motor has a rotor arranged so that a rotational center thereof intersects an axis of a steering shaft joined to the~~

steering member and a cylindrical motor housing for supporting said rotor, and a peripheral face of said motor housing is provided with an impact energy receiver for applying rotational force to the motor housing by the impact energy.

9. (Currently amended) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

a steering assist motor for assisting operation of a steering mechanism by turning a steering member; and

a supporting mechanism for supporting said motor on a stationary member comprising a projection provided at one of the motor and the stationary member and a recess provided at the other of the motor and the stationary member, the projection being inserted into the recess;

wherein the supporting mechanism has a releasing mechanism for releasing support of the motor on the stationary member by impact energy applied to the motor comprising a movement permitting portion for permitting relative movement of the projection in the recess and a slip-off portion from where the projection slips off the movement permitting portion and

~~The electric power steering apparatus according to Claim 2,~~
wherein the motor has a rotor arranged so that a rotational center thereof intersects an axis of a steering shaft joined to the steering member and a cylindrical motor housing for supporting said

rotor, and a peripheral face of said motor housing is provided with an impact energy receiver for applying rotational force to the motor housing by the impact energy.

10. (Currently amended) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

a steering assist motor for assisting operation of a steering mechanism by turning a steering member; and

a supporting mechanism for supporting said motor on a stationary member,

wherein the supporting mechanism has a releasing mechanism for releasing support of the motor on the stationary member by impact energy applied to the motor, and

~~The electric power steering apparatus according to Claim 1,~~
~~wherein~~ the motor has a rotor arranged so that a rotational center thereof intersects an axis of a steering shaft joined to the steering member and a cylindrical motor housing for supporting said rotor, and a peripheral face of said motor housing is provided with an impact energy receiver for applying rotational force to the motor housing by the impact energy.

11. (Previously presented) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

a steering shaft joined to a steering member;

a shaft housing with an opening for accommodating said steering shaft;

a steering assist motor for assisting operation of a steering mechanism joined to the steering shaft, the steering assist motor having a rotor arranged so that a rotational center thereof intersects an axis of the steering shaft and a cylindrical motor housing for supporting said rotor; and

a supporting mechanism for supporting one end portion of the motor housing on the shaft housing,

wherein the supporting mechanism comprises:

a projection provided at a peripheral position of the motor housing;

an arc-shaped groove provided in the shaft housing, the arc-shaped groove being open to the interior of the shaft housing opening and having a discontinuity into which the projection is inserted so as to be movable in a length direction of the groove; and

a slip-off portion from where the projection slips off the arc-shaped groove when the projection moves.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

13. (Currently amended) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

a steering assist motor for assisting operation of a steering mechanism by turning a steering member; and

a supporting mechanism for supporting said motor on a stationary member comprising a projection configured as a tongue provided at one of the motor and the stationary member and a recess configured as an annular groove provided at the other of the motor and the stationary member, the projection being inserted into the recess;

wherein the supporting mechanism has a releasing mechanism for releasing support of the motor on the stationary member by impact energy applied to the motor comprising a movement permitting portion for permitting relative movement of the projection in the recess and a slip-off portion from where the projection slips off the movement permitting portion, and

~~The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 12,~~
wherein the motor has a rotor arranged so that a rotational center thereof intersects an axis of a steering shaft joined to the steering member and a cylindrical motor housing for supporting said rotor, and a peripheral face of said motor housing is provided with an impact energy receiver for applying rotational force to the motor housing by the impact energy.

14. (Currently amended) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

a steering assist motor for assisting operation of a steering mechanism by turning a steering member; and

a supporting mechanism for supporting said motor on a stationary member comprising a projection provided at one of the motor and the stationary member and a recess provided at the other of the motor and the stationary member, the projection being inserted into the recess;

wherein the supporting mechanism has a releasing mechanism for releasing support of the motor on the stationary member by impact energy applied to the motor comprising a movement permitting portion for permitting relative movement of the projection in the recess, a slip-off portion from where the projection slips off the movement permitting portion and an elastic member for pushing the projection provided at one of the motor and the stationary member outward at a position of the slip-off portion,

~~The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the projection is being configured as a tongue and the recess is being configured as an annular groove.~~

15. (Currently amended) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

a steering assist motor for assisting operation of a steering mechanism by turning a steering member; and

a supporting mechanism for supporting said motor on a stationary member comprising a projection configured as a tongue provided at one of the motor and the stationary member and a recess configured as an annular groove provided at the other of the motor and the stationary member, the projection being inserted into the recess;

wherein the supporting mechanism has a releasing mechanism for releasing support of the motor on the stationary member by impact energy applied to the motor comprising a movement permitting portion for permitting relative movement of the projection in the recess, a slip-off portion from where the projection slips off the movement permitting portion and an elastic member for pushing the projection provided at one of the motor and the stationary member outward at a position of the slip-off portion, and ~~The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the motor~~ has a rotor arranged so that a rotational center thereof intersects an axis of a steering shaft joined to the steering member and a cylindrical motor housing for supporting said rotor, and a peripheral face of said motor housing is provided with an impact energy receiver for applying rotational force to the motor housing by the impact energy.

16. (Previously presented) The electric power steering apparatus of claim 11, wherein the arc-shaped groove of the

supporting mechanism is configured as a recess within the supporting mechanism.

17. (Previously presented) An electric power steering apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the supporting mechanism comprises an elastic member for pushing the projection at the arc-shaped groove outward at the slip-off portion.

18. (Previously presented) An electric power steering apparatus according to claim 11, wherein a peripheral face of said motor housing is provided with an impact energy receiver for applying rotational force to the motor housing by the impact energy.

19. (Previously presented) An electric power steering apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the supporting mechanism comprises an arc-shaped contact plate made of a material with low frictional resistance within the arc-shaped groove.

Claims 20 and 21 (Cancelled).

22. (Previously presented) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

a support; and

a steering assist motor for assisting operation of a steering mechanism by turning a steering member mounted on said support, said motor having a rotor having a rotational center intersecting an axis of a steering shaft joined to the steering member and a motor housing for supporting said rotor;

said steering assist motor having a peripheral face provided with at least one projection for applying rotational force to the motor housing upon the application of impact energy against the at least one projection.

23. (Cancelled).